

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 01509 211102Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 H-02 NSC-05 CAB-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
FAA-00 L-03 PA-02 USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /079 W
-----069869 211352Z /53

R 211006Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2278
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 1509

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, NL
SUBJ: DUTCH FORESEE AIRLINE BANKRUPTCIES

REF: STATE 064526

1. TWO MEMBERS OF THE DUTCH DELEGATION TO THE WASHINGTON AVIATION TALKS TOLD NEWSPAPER REPORTERS ON THEIR RETURN THAT THEY EXPECT THE CHANGE IN AMERICAN AVIATION POLICY TO RESULT IN THE BANKRUPTCY OF A NUMBER OF AIRLINES. THEY DID NOT EXPECT KLM TO BE ONE OF THEM. KLM'S VICE PRESIDENT WASSENBERG SAID:
" IT IS IN FACT A CAPITALIST TRICK THE AMERICANS ARE PLAYING. ONLY THE STRONGEST AIRLINES WILL SURVIVE. BUT I EXPECT PROFITS FOR KLM. WE WILL NOW HAVE TO EDUCATE IATA."

2. TRANSPORT STATE SECRETARY NEELIE SMIT TOLD PARLIAMENT THAT THE AGREEMENT OFFERED AMSTERDAM A CHANCE TO BECOME A SORT OF ROTTERDAM OF THE AIR.

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S TRANSPORT ADVISOR, JAN NIEUWENHUIJSEN, CONCEDED TROUBLE FROM OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES,
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SAYING THAT WEST GERMANY AND FRANCE WOULD SEE LITTLE GOOD IN THE ACCORD. NIEUWENHUIJSEN SAID OPPOSITION FROM LUFTHANSA AND AIR FRANCE HAD PREVENTED THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FROM ANY DISCUSSION OF LIBERALIZING REGULATIONS ON CIVIL AVIATION.

4. BOTH NIEUWENHUIJSEN AND MARTIN SCHRODER, THE PRESIDENT OF MARTINAIR, THE NETHERLANDS LARGEST CHARTER CARRIER, REGRETTE

THAT A SHORTAGE OF EQUIPMENT COULD PREVENT DUTCH AIRLINES FROM BENEFITTING IMMEDIATELY FROM THE EXPECTED INCREASE IN TOURIST TRAFFIC. LACKING ENOUGH WIDEBODY AIRCRAFT,KLM IS UNLIKEL TO BEGIN USING ITS NEW LANDING RIGHTS IN LOS ANGELES BEFORE NEXT YEAR.

5. ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, CABINET APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT IS ANTICIPATED THIS WEEK.
BROWN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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